

Foggy Bottom NEWS

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OUR PROTECTORS

We visited Precinct No. 3 of the Police Department on K Street the other day and called on Capt. Albert L. Embrey and Lt. Charles L. Van Meter. Their officers patrol Foggy Bottom and watch while we sleep--or work. Mighty impressed we were with their alertness, earnestness, and efficiency. When we called, the Captain had just rushed out on an emergency--manholes leaking gas dangerously--but he returned shortly, having averted disaster.

No. 3 extends from the White House on the east, to S Street on the north, Rock Creek Drive on the west, and the river on the south--a big precinct.

Captain Embrey and Lieutenant Van Meter paid Foggy Bottom the compliment of saying that we are a pretty well behaved lot, law abiding and little trouble to the police. Since 1955, in fact, we've had not a single crime of violence, not even a yoke robbery(knock wood). A wave of small scale burglaries toward the end of 1957 was nipped when our police protection was doubled. Five or six of our houses were entered, and money taken. The housebreakers came in through open patios. People are advised to leave patio lights burning as a precaution.

Our own patrolmen in Foggy Bottom cover us on No. 1 beat, extending south of K Street and west of 23rd Street to the river. One of them may pass your house 10 or a dozen times while walking a beat. Patrolmen assigned to No. 1 at present are Officers J. W. Chesley, H. L. Smith, and J. D. Marcinak. They work on 3 shifts--4 p.m. to midnight, midnight to 8 a.m., and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.--and alternate their shifts so as to give each an even break. During the winter months an additional officer is assigned the beat from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Police regulations permit an officer to accept an invitation to drop in and have a cup of coffee. Our latchstring is out to Officers Chesley, Smith, and Marcinak at all times--and to Captain Embrey and Lieutenant Van Meter!

To call police, dial NA 8-4000, and ask for Precinct Number 3.

OLD SETTLERS

Possibly the oldest residents of Foggy Bottom are two old bachelors, the Brothers Morus rubra, who live in back of Hughes Court. One took up squatter's rights in the corner of Gordon Campbell's patio, 922-25th, the other took root right in the middle of the alley back of Bob Keith's at 918-25th. They're mulberry trees of ancient age -- red ones.

Goodness knows how long they've been here in Foggy Bottom--maybe since Colonial days, judging by their girth and the reach of their limbs, which extend up above the roofs of nearby houses and give shade to half a dozen patios. Perhaps the birds brought them here from Mount Vernon or Monticello, for George Washington and Thomas Jefferson both planted mulberry trees in the hope of establishing a silk industry in America.

The mulberry tree is bisexual, but our trees have never married--the birds left no female mulberry trees in Foggy Bottom. That's fortunate for the people, if not for Brothers Morus rubra, for it's the female of the species that makes the mess with berries all through the summer months.

Harry Truman once said he wants to be buried in a mulberry coffin, because mulberry wood cracks and pops when it burns. "I want to go through hell a-crackin' and a-poppin'," said H. T.

To see Brothers Morus rubra, enter the arched alley next to Bob Keith's house, and walk back to the cross alley behind the Hughes Court patios.

WANTED: A NAME

For the best name for your paper a \$5 prize is offered. Send it to Herb Socks, or hand it in at the February meeting. The lucky winner will be announced in our next issue.

GOLD'S LIQUORS

2501 PENN. AVE., N.W. AD. 2 - 7934

HAMBURG

Our neighbor to the east--George Washington University--began to move to Foggy Bottom in the '70's. The University, then known as Columbia College, was formerly at University Place, between Clifton and Fairmont, and 14th and 15th.

But G.W. didn't speak of Foggy Bottom when it moved down here--it was "Hamburg." That's the name of the old town that an enterprising 18th century German emigrant, Jacob Funk, laid out here on the Potomac nearly two centuries ago. The old gentleman bought a 130-acre tract, bounded by what are now H Street on the north, 18th or 19th Streets on the east, 23rd Street on the west, and the river. In 1768 he laid out 287 building blocks, incorporated the town and called it Hamburg for the port city in Germany that had been his home. Upriver at that time was Georgetown, and our neighborhood lay in between, a foggy bottom -- or as some insist, froggy bottom (since corrupted), because of the frogs croaking in the sloughs.

Even before Hamburg was laid out, Jacob Funk had built a wharf on the Potomac. If it were still there it would be at the foot of 21st Street, in West Potomac Park, a bit below Memorial Bridge. General Braddock, in 1755, landed his troops at the wharf after taking off from Alexandria at the start of his ill-fated campaign in the French and Indian War.

In 1806 Congress fixed the hack fare at 25 cents from Hamburg wharf to "The President's House." Incidentally, Thomas Jefferson picked a site in Hamburg for the Capitol building--he favored the southeast corner of 19th and G. That neighborhood was known as Embassy Row--around 1825 -- the French and Danish embassies were there.

At 20th and G stands the Concordia Lutheran Evangelical Church on the very ground that Herr Funk donated to the church body nearly two centuries ago, and every Sunday morning at 9:45 a German service may still be heard there.

CAMALIER RETAINER

All members of the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association who pledged support for a fund to pay Renah F. Camalier to represent us in our negotiations over Route 240 extension will be asked to contribute \$10 (or more, if they desire) at our February meeting.

BLESSED EVENT

Little Kate McClintic Stevens, 6 1/2 pound baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ross S. Stevens, 2614 I Street, was born at George Washington University Hospital at vesper time on Friday, January 31. First grand-daughter on her maternal side, Miss Kate rates her mama's family name, McClintic. She's also the first Foggy Bottom baby to be born in 1958, so far as our vital statisticians have been able to learn.

EXPECTING

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thomas Carter -- Ruby and Possum to their devoted friends and admirers in Foggy Bottom -- expect a baby in June. "And it had better be a girl!" beams Ruby. Her doctor humors her with assurance that a girl is almost a certainty. Ruby lost a little girl, then 5, a few years ago. Foggy Bottom neighbors who are not expecting, and have baby things collecting dust on shelves, may help celebrate the blessed event with baby showers for Ruby. She lives at 944 26th Street. Things can be left there, or at 917 Hughes Court--just put them behind the storm door if nobody answers. Boy's things will be accepted, though girls' are preferred.

BAPTIST CHURCHES

Roger Williams would have been pleased with the headway made in Foggy Bottom by the church he founded in America. Three Baptist churches are in our section: Mount Lebanon on 25th, Morning Star on 26th, and the Greater St. Paul on 27th.

SWAPPING COLUMN

One of the sections in our paper will offer you space for swapping. You name it, we'll print it.

LARGEST BUILDING

Out of the big hold over at 22nd and C Streets will soon rise the largest building in the District --the future home of the State Department. The 8-story structure will cover 4 city blocks and house the 7500 employees of State now scattered among 29 locations in the District. It is scheduled for completion in 1960.

..D&W MARKET..

26TH & K STS. N.W. FE. 3-5000

FINE GROCERIES

FREE FAST DELIVERY

OUR PRESIDENT SAYS:

The first issue of a newspaper by the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association marks another milestone in the progress of our organization. It affords an opportunity to set forth the aims and objectives of the Association as well as to state, or restate, some of the problems with which we are confronted.

Our aims and objectives are of course to build a better Foggy Bottom. However, the attainment of these objectives requires the joint efforts of the entire community. Some of our recent accomplishments are reviewed elsewhere in this issue.

Trees have been planted on our streets. A special cleanup campaign was made. Police coverage was increased to stop housebreaking and the litter law was enforced to require builders to clean up during periods of construction.

Prizes were awarded for the best Christmas decorations. The Foggy Bottom choral group composed of children in the community was nothing short of sensational.

Recommendations have been submitted to the District Commissioners requesting a modification of the Lewis Plan as they apply to Foggy Bottom. As the mapping is being done in executive sessions, the outcome won't be known until April 1. Of immediate and utmost concern, however, are the problems with respect to the proposed Route 240 and the Inner Loop. If the proposed routes are adopted, more than half of our area will be taken for highways, access routes, and interchanges.

To combat these actions would require more time and effort, and more expert knowledge in presenting our case, than could be given by members of the Association. Outside assistance was therefore enlisted to help in this situation. The services of the Renah Camalier were obtained, and if anything can be done certainly Mr. Camalier is the man to do it.

Mr. Camalier himself offers no guarantee of success and has undertaken this job more as a matter of civic interest than for the fee. Mr. Camalier has arranged for a meeting with District highway and other interested officials to discuss the alternate plan worked out by our Association for Route 240.

Although prospects for both Route 240 and the Inner Loop are some distance away,

it behooves us to continue to keep a wary eye on developments and to prepare for any eventuality.

Meantime, it is to our advantage to continue the development of the community. If the achievement of the past year can be continued, if the same degree of unanimity and enthusiasm can be maintained, then I feel confident these factors will weigh heavily in our favor at the time final decisions are made.

Our Association has given its officers good support. It is gratifying to have such fine cooperation in making this into one of the finest and most progressive civic organizations in the city, thanks to you, the members, whose combined efforts are making this possible.

President, FBRA

FRED KUHN TO BUILD 3 MORE

Three houses are to be built soon on two lots on I Street--one to front on I, the other two on Hughes Court. They will be next to the houses in the 2500 block on I Street recently built by Larry Brandt. Fred Kuhn is building the three new ones.

ONE WEEK CLEANUP

Following complaints to District authorities launched by your Association, public authorities put on an intensive one-week cleanup in Foggy Bottom. The litter occasioned by builders of the apartments at 25th and Hughes Court was cleaned up when Captain Embrey of No. 3 Precinct invoked an old but seldom enforced litter law.

15 STRAY DOGS IMPOUNDED

After the Association received complaints from members regarding stray dogs, the District picked up 15 of the beasts in The Bottom in a one-day cleanup, and took them to the pound. The barking dogs remaining in Foggy Bottom have rights--or their owners do--and there is precious little you can do about it except plug up your ears. Fent's Anti-Noise Ear Stoppers are best for this purpose. They shut out noise and help you sleep.

(Free advertisement)

COMPLIMENTS OF
WOODWARD NORRIS
REAL ESTATE RE. 7-6585

723 - 20TH ST., N.W.

CHRISTMAS ART

We had a talk with the creators of our prize-winning Christmas decorations the other evening, though Sis Campbell was busy cooking Chinese food for the evening meal and Henry Schalizki had his right foot in a cast as a result of a log falling on his instep. Second prize for the Christmas decorations went to the Campbells, Sis and Gordon (922-25th), but Gordon insists that Sis deserves the credit. Similarly, first prize and \$25 went to Henry and Robert Davis, who share the handsome new town house at 2420 - I, but Bob says he owes it all to Henry.

Well, the two prize winning decorations were as different as could be, except that both were little art treasures. Let's start with Sis's. She had two paintings that she did especially for the occasion. One depicted Mary and the Child, the other the Adoration of the Magi. These were set up inside the street-side window and the window panel of the front door and were illuminated from inside the house so that, viewed from the street, they appeared to be engulfed with holy light.

Sis is a portrait painter of established reputation. Just before she and Gordon moved into their house on 25th Street she had a one-man show at Martha's Vineyard. She exhibited paintings she had completed in Formosa, where they had been the past two years, Gordon then being in the export-import business in the Far East. She signs her Chinese pictures with "chops" which signify the name the Formosans gave her -- "Snow Silk."

Henry's decoration had almost no religious symbolism in it--none of the usual Christian symbols, at least. It was just a beautiful door. He took all the brass off, and covered the whole door with red felt. Then he framed it with red ribbon accented with long-needle pine. In the center hung a resplendent wreath wrought of gold leaf intermingled with shiny sprigs of tiny glass "berries" green and gold. When the decorated panel was illuminated by the door lantern it made truly a lovely holiday picture.

Henry's an accountant by occupation -- he works for the B&O Railroad -- but art is his hobby. He paints oils of still-life and landscapes though until just recently he had received no art training. This winter he has been attending an art class at Catholic U under Father Stephen Reid "to get ideas."

C AND O CANAL

Does anybody know where the C&O Canal cut through Foggy Bottom? Some say it ran up I Street to 20th, humping the hill with locks. Let's get our history straight.

FOGGY BOTTOM RAILROAD

We used to be an industrial center and had a railroad. It's said that a railroad track traversed K Street west of Washington Circle. If incorrect, the editor will print a retraction.

SYCAMORES, OF COURSE

The District has set out sycamores along 26th, 27th and I Streets this winter, and all tree box spaces on these streets in Foggy Bottom now have trees growing in them.

We have sycamores along half of our streets here in The Bottom. They're the trees that line 25th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, besides 26th, 27th and I Streets. Elms are on G, K, and New Hampshire -- also 23rd and 24th.

Some of our sycamores are more than 5 feet in circumference--what age would that indicate? The sycamore is a giant of a tree and can live 500 to 600 years. In Indiana some specimens lift their branches 150 feet and measure 10 feet in diameter. One of the sycamore's pet names is "buttonball," for the cute 1-inch balls it fruits and leaves hanging, like Christmas decorations, all winter long.

The sycamore is a tree that busts out of its britches, and that accounts for its Dalmatian dog appearance of white and dark spots. Peculiar thing about this tree--it grows only its inner layer of bark every year. The sun turns this layer white. Meanwhile the outer layers of past years aren't growing; they turn gray and are forced off little by little.

The plane tree is cousin to the sycamore. In fact, a cross of 2 kinds of sycamores produced the London plane trees that stand in front of Rockefeller Center and line midtown streets in Manhattan. Sycamores like it damp and noisy--at least damp--and cities that lie near the water, like New York and Washington, find it an ideal street tree.

HEAVENLY TREE

They call it "tree of heaven"--and heaven only knows why, for it stinks! The polite name is ailanthus, from the Malacca, "ailanto," which means tree of heaven. The French brought it to Europe from the Moluccas--the East Indian Spice Islands. The birds and the wind brought it to Foggy Bottom; we have quite a few growing helter-skelter in the courts.

Most people like ailanthus for its airy fern-like foliage, good shade, and hardiness, despite the bad odor you notice if you break a twig. The leaves and bark remind you a little of walnut, if you know what we mean.

If you don't watch out it will take over your patio--it takes root in sand and soil between bricks, and shoots up a couple of feet in a season.

It was the ailanthus that gave Betty Smith the title for her book, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn."

HERB FEATURED NATIONALLY

Here was a picture of Herb Socks, our president, telephone to-ear, captioned "Herbert Socks: When a country wanted vaccine, they called him." Over on the other side was a little Cuban boy receiving Salk Vaccine which the Department of Commerce helped the Government of Cuba get from the U. S. NEA, the Scripps Howard feature service, carried the feature in 150 papers across the nation.

Herb got the credit because he did the job--for the Cuban Government and the Governments of many other nations, working with the World Health Organization. As Licensing Officer for the Department of Commerce, Herb authorized American firms to export 10 million cc's of vaccine. For a job well done, he received a superior performance award and \$200 from Commerce. Herb's a graduate pharmacist, G.W. 1934.

WHO PAYS FOR SIDEWALKS?

If a public sidewalk needs only "normal repair," the District pays for it. But if it requires "entire replacement" the District pays only half--the other half is "assessible against the abutting property." If a builder damages or removes a brick sidewalk, he has to replace it and pay for it.

As to paving a tree space, the District will defray the cost of half if the sidewalk was solid at the location, otherwise the property owner must pay the entire cost. The District supplied all this information in writing to L. C. Boykin of our Public Affairs Committee. Members of our Association had asked for it.

T-BONES FOR DUSTY

Lady Dusty Belden-Reese, aristocratic Sheltie of Hughes Court, enjoyed T-bones for brunch the other Sunday, because Benita Belden and Sara Reese had a steak dinner the evening before for Norbert Engles, formerly of Washington. Mr. Engles, an old friend of Benita and Sara, has recently been named president of the City Bank and Trust Company of Chicago.

OLD RUIN

That pile of stone and brick over on Rock Creek just north of the Freeway used to be a lime kiln. There's a bronze plaque on a granite stone near the roadway that tells all about it:

GODEY'S LIME KILNS -- 1833 - 1908.

These kilns were used as late as 1908 supplying Washington with a fine grade of lime. The limestone was brought from quarries just beyond Seneca over the C&O Canal. National Sesquicentennial Commission 1950.

GAS WORKS BLIGHT

It wasn't the fog or the humidity that blighted our neighborhood--it was the fumes from the gas works. Gas that escaped--artificial gas is produced from coal--killed all except the hardiest plants and trees and gave everybody sinus trouble. The C&O Canal, the lime kiln, the breweries, the railroad, and the gas works brought people here to work, but it was the gas that blighted Foggy Bottom and reduced it to a slum.

PETE'S TO REOPEN

Foggy Bottom's favorite tavern, Pete's, forced out of business by the new People's Life Building, is to reopen soon at 25th and F. The fame of Pete Daly's bar extended far beyond Foggy Bottom. You never forgot the stray goats that wandered through the place while you were tossing off a couple of boiler-makers. The goats never mixed beer with anything themselves.

SMALLEST BUILDING

Prominent in Hughes Court are two reminders of Old Foggy Bottom--an abandoned truck bed upended on a vacant lot, and a Chick Sale. These sentimental associations of the past meet the eye as you enter the Court, giving strong contrast to the modern spick-and-span-new houses, and their patios, that have sprung up in recent years. Smallest building in The Bottom, this Chick Sale is a two-holer.

